

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-7, such that the Claims are as set forth below.

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A method of planarizing a surface by directing ozone gas onto said surface and causing relative motion of said surface and a polishing pad in contact therewith, wherein a fluid is present.

9. (Previously presented) A method of planarizing a surface comprising directing onto said surface an aqueous solution comprising ozone and causing relative motion of said surface and a polishing pad in contact therewith.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 9 further comprising abrasive particles in said aqueous solution.

11. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 10 wherein said abrasive particles are selected from a group consisting of alumina, silica, ceria, spinel, zirconia and mixtures thereof.

12. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 10 further comprising at least one ammonium salt in said aqueous solution.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 12 wherein said at least one ammonium salt is ammonium carbonate.

14. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9 wherein the surface comprises a material selected from a group consisting of iridium, iridium oxide, and platinum.

15. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9 wherein the surface comprises a low k material.

16. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9 wherein the surface comprises a structure selected from a group consisting of a hard disk and a micro electrical mechanical structure.

17. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9 wherein said directing comprises directing the aqueous solution at a location proximate a carrier of the surface.

18. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 17 wherein the location is less than one inch downstream of the surface.

19. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9 wherein a pH of the aqueous solution is from about 2 to about 8.

20. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9 wherein the aqueous solution comprises at least one reagent selected from a group consisting of carbonate anions, bicarbonate anions, oxalic acid, formic acid, acetic acid, and glycol acids.

21. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9, further comprising controlling a temperature of the aqueous solution.

22. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 21 wherein said controlling comprises lowering the temperature.

23. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 21 wherein said controlling comprises refrigerating the aqueous solution.

24. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9, further comprising controlling a concentration of ozone in the aqueous solution.

25. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 24 wherein said controlling comprises controlling the concentration of ozone such that it is less than or equal to 20 ppm.

26. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 9 comprising spin-etching of the surface.